

me that on the 14th of August last he saw at Concordia quite a number, mostly young birds, and that Dr. C. P. Blachly has in his collection a female shot some three years ago at Manhattan.—N. S. Goss, *Topeka, Kan.*

**Third Addendum to List of Birds Ascertained to Occur within Ten Miles from Point des Monts, Province of Quebec, Canada; Based Chiefly upon the Notes of Napoleon A. Comeau.**—(For the original list and first and second addenda see Bull. Nutt. Ornith. Club, Vol. VII, No. 4, Oct., 1882, pp. 233-242; Vol. VIII, No. 4, Oct., 1883, p. 244; and The Auk, Vol. I, No. 3, July, 1884, p. 295.)

171. *Anorthura troglodytes hyemalis*.—A pair of Winter Wrens spent the past summer (1884) at Godbout. They were first seen July 7. This species was not observed in the Gulf by either Mr. Brewster or myself, though it is common in Newfoundland.

172. *Somateria dresseri*.—Mr. William Brewster has recently called my attention to the fact that among the skins of Eider Ducks sent me by Mr. Comeau are examples of both *S. mollissima* and *S. dresseri*.

173. *Tachypetes aquila*.—A Frigate Pelican was seen and shot at by Mr. Comeau at Godbout August 13, 1884. It had previously been seen (about the end of July) by the keeper of the lightship at Manicougan, about forty miles higher up the river.

A second specimen of the Wheatear (*Saxicola ænanthe*) was taken at Godbout, September 19, 1884, and was exhibited by Mr. Comeau at the late meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union.—C. HART MERRIAM, *Locust Grove, New York.*

**Albinism.**—My attention was drawn to a note in the 'Oölogist' for April last, in which the writer gives his experience in albinism and asks for an explanation of these freaks of nature. In order to air my experience, and at the same time to give a probable cause, which I would like, for the sake of possible verification, other observers to look for in the future, is the object of the present note.

True albinism is of course congenital, and is a condition in which the normal pigmentary matter is deficient in the system of the individual affected; in such cases the eyes are pink, and the skin with its appendages are white or nearly so. In the case of partial albinos, however, it is difficult; their condition can probably be explained by some circumstances occurring after birth which will account for the change in the color of the skin, such for instance as the case given by the writer in the 'Oölogist,' in which the skin had been injured on the back of a Swift, and next year the patch of white feathers indicated the situation of the injury. The same thing is familiar in the case of the horse whose back or shoulder is galled by the harness; white patches appear, owing to lowered vitality of the injured part. These cases are familiar, but I wish to give possibly another cause acting in the same way, only more general. It is this. When a boy I shot among others a black squirrel peculiarly marked, it having a per-

fectly white tail, with some white about the head; on making a post mortem I discovered through a rent in the intestines a tape-worm about 20 feet in length. Did not wonder then that his head was gray. A few years after a partially white Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phœniceus*) was taken, which also contained two or three tænia; next a partial albino Mallard; then a Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) with a white head and mottled back and breast. All were mounted, and are now in my collection. Each of these had two or more tape-worms in their intestines. I am aware that birds, especially some species, are particularly obnoxious to tape-worms, and the above may have been merely coincidences; still it has been observed sufficiently often to make the fact suspicious as a cause of albinism.—G. A. MCCALLUM, *Dunnville, Ont.*

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

[Correspondents are requested to write briefly and to the point. No attention will be paid to anonymous communications.]

TO THE EDITORS OF THE AUK:—

*Sirs:* I see by the last number of 'The Auk' that the Committee on Nomenclature is undecided whether to adopt the name 'Junco' or 'Snowbird' as the vernacular name of *Junco hiemalis*. The bird in question is here, and in many other parts of its range, not a 'Snowbird' at all, as it almost invariably leaves for the South before there is any snow, and does not return till the ground is completely clear. I think this should be sufficient to decide the question in favor of 'Junco,' as in my opinion a bird should always bear a name which is applicable to it in every part of its range.

The same argument applies with equal or still greater force to the name 'Winter Wren.' *Anorthura troglodytes hyemalis* spends the summer in the hills near here, but is never found here during the cold weather; and people here have frequently remarked on the absurdity of our having to call an essentially summer bird the 'Winter Wren.' It may be urged that we have no choice in the matter, as there is no other name for the bird; but why cannot some descriptive name, such as 'Short-tailed Wren,' be invented. Many will doubtless say that the old name is too well established to admit of its removal; but the Committee has, I understand, in some instances made changes even more radical than this, and on no stronger ground; and it does seem a pity, when a thorough and final revision of the nomenclature is in progress, to allow a misnomer like 'Winter Wren' to stand. For surely a name must be considered a misnomer which is inapplicable in a bird's summer home—the place where by far the most important part of its life's drama is enacted.

Ottawa, November 19, 1884.

W. L. SCOTT